

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) The prices of fertilizers like Urea, DAP, MOP and Complexes were last increased as per the Budget 2000-2001.

(b) and (c) The decision to increase the selling prices of fertilizers was necessitated by consideration of fiscal sustainability as also of balanced nutrient application. While there is no proposal to reduce the prices of fertilizers, their prices are being kept in check. Price of Urea which is the only controlled fertilizer is being kept in check through subsidy provided under the retention price-cum-subsidy scheme. In case of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilisers, a concession is given to manufacturers and importers to enable sale of these fertilizers to farmers at reasonable prices which are indicated by the Government. Even at the present price level, substantial amount of subsidy would continue to be paid in the case of Urea and decontrolled fertilisers.

Wheat Stock

2031. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a wheat glut in the country and there is no storage space available;

(b) whether Government have introduced the Commodity Loan Scheme or Barter Trade or Open Sale to unload the excessive stocks available;

(c) whether the present wheat stock is 254.17 lakh tons against a buffer norms of 154 lakh tons; and

(d) if so, what are Government views on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) No Sir, FCI has adequate storage capacity of 27.1 million tonnes against the total stocks of 24.9 million tonnes held by them as on 1.7.2000.

(b) Government has taken a decision to explore the possibilities of Commodity Loan/Barter trade of wheat with SAARC countries or other countries which could supply other commodities in exchange and export of wheat on Government to Government account. Besides the ongoing Open Market Sale Scheme of wheat. FCI has also been authorised to dispose of upto 50 lakh tonnes of wheat in Punjab only at the following rates:

Month	Rate per qtl.
July, 2000	Rs. 700/-
August, 2000	Rs. 750/-
September, 2000	Rs. 800/-

(c) The Stock position of wheat in the Central Pool as on 1.7.2000 as compared to buffer norms was as under:

(Figures in Lakh tonnes)

Commodity	Stock as on 1.7.2000	Buffer norms as on 1.7.2000	Excess
Wheat	277.57	143.00	134.57

(d) Government has taken various steps, as stated above, to liquidate the surplus stocks of wheat.

Direct investment in Food Processing Sector

2032. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Food Processing Sector has failed to attract foreign Directed investment;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) details of their proposals received and actually implemented with the help of FDI during last years;
- (d) out of these how many are 100 per cent export oriented; and
- (e) steps proposed by Government to attract more FDI in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.